

Appl. No. 10/566,869
Amdt. Dated: June 25, 2008
Reply to Office action of March 25, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include Figures 2-3 as designated by "Related Art", and replace the original sheets which inadvertently omit such a legend.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are amended.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the reference number 116 in Figure 3 is not mentioned in the description and because Figures 2-3 should be designated by a legend such as - Prior Art-. The drawings are amended to provide a legend -Related Art- in Figures 2-3. Since the specification is amended to correct the typographical error "a jig 106" to "a jig 116", the element 116 in Figure 3 is now mentioned in the description. Thus, the objection as it applies to the drawings is moot. No new matter is entered by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the

invention. Claim 3 has been amended to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the rejection as it applied to claim 3 is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Huetsch (U.S. Patent 4,685,861).

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Murata et al. (U.S. Patent 6,178,842 B1; hereinafter "Murata").

Regarding the amended claims 1 and 3, neither Huetsch nor Murata discloses the first arm having a continuous-curved C shape, wherein a thickness of said C-shaped first arm decreases continuously from one end connected to the first drive part to the other end connected to a second arm drive part. The arm 24 of Huetsch includes straight part and curving part, that is, not continuous-curved C shape part. The arm 14 of Murata also includes straight part and curving part, that is, not continuous-curved C shape part.

Since the arm has a continuous-curved C shape in the claimed invention, it becomes possible to maintain the strength of the arm. Therefore, a thickness of the C-shaped first arm can decrease continuously from one end connected to the first drive part to the other end connected to a second arm drive part. As a consequence, it can be realized to lighten the arm and save the resource in conjunction with the reduced interference between the arm and the workpiece, etc.

Since the arm has a continuous-curved C shape in the claimed invention, it is possible to ensure the working area for the backward of the robot compared with Huetsch and Murata.

Claims 2 and 4 which are dependent from claims 1 and 3, respectively should also be allowable for at least the same reason.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

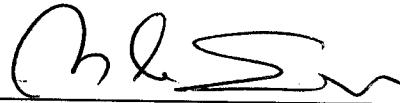
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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB 39627.

Respectfully submitted,

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